

Application No. 10/019,624
Amendment and Response dated May 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed January 3, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A universal hose clamp comprising:

a universal hose locating mechanism;

a hose mount linked to the universal hose locating mechanism through a mounting pin to provide free rotational movement of the hose mount about the longitudinal axis of the mounting pin to control the pitch of the hose mount;

a first locking mechanism linked to the hose mount by the mounting pin, the first locking mechanism being movable which moves between a locked and an unlocked position and a locked position to control rotational movement of the hose mount, the first locking mechanism comprising a handle assembly linked to the mounting pin, the handle assembly and a pin having a first axis, wherein the handle assembly rotates configured to rotate relative to the mounting pin in the plane of the pin to move the first locking mechanism between the locked and unlocked and locked positions;

a securing means for securing ~~said~~ the universal hose locating mechanism to a support structure; and

a hose coupling coupled to the hose mount, the hose coupling being adapted to connect a hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, such that with the first locking mechanism in the unlocked position, wherein the hose coupling has is configured to have unlimited rotational movement about the first longitudinal axis of the mount pin, when

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~~the hose is coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism is in the
unlocked position.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the universal hose locating mechanism further comprises a second locking mechanism linked to the hose mount, the second locking mechanism being which moves movable between a locked and an unlocked and a locked position, the second locking mechanism comprising a second handle assembly and a swivel pin, wherein the swivel pin has a longitudinal axis such that with the hose coupled to the hose coupling, and the second locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first longitudinal axis of the mounting pin, wherein the second handle assembly is rotatable relative to the swivel pin to move the second locking mechanism between the unlocked and locked positions such that with the second locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about the longitudinal axis of the swivel pin.

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3. (Currently Amended) ~~A universal hose clamp comprising: as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the second locking mechanism comprises a second handle assembly, a connection means and a second pin wherein the first and second locking mechanisms are in the unlocked positions when the respective handle assembly is in a plane parallel to the respective pin, and the locked position when the respective handle assembly is rotated to lie in a plane perpendicular to the respective pin.~~

a universal hose locating mechanism,

a first locking mechanism linked to the universal hose locating mechanism, the first locking mechanism being movable between a locked and an unlocked position, the first locking mechanism comprising a handle assembly and a pin having a first axis, wherein the handle assembly rotates relative to the pin in a plane of the pin to move the first locking mechanism between the locked and unlocked positions;

a securing means for securing the universal hose locating mechanism to a support structure;

a hose coupling adapted to connect a hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the hose coupling is linked to the universal hose locating mechanism, such that the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about the first axis when the hose is coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position, wherein the hose coupling comprises a female member suitable for receiving the pin therein so as to allow the hose coupling to be removed from the universal hose locating mechanism when the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position;

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a second locking mechanism linked to the hose coupling, the second locking mechanism being movable between a locked and an unlocked position such that with the hose coupled to the hose coupling and the second locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis, wherein the second locking mechanism comprises a second handle assembly and a connection means for connecting the second locking mechanism to a second pin,

wherein the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position when the first handle assembly is substantially parallel to the first pin, and the locked position when the first handle assembly is rotated to lie substantially perpendicular to the first pin, and wherein second locking mechanism is in the unlocked positions when the second handle assembly is substantially parallel to the second pin, and the locked position when the second handle assembly is rotated to lie substantially perpendicular to the second pin,

4. (Currently Amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 2, wherein the securing means comprises a ~~first female member adapted to receive an end of the swivel pin therein suitable for receiving the second pin~~ and a base clamping mechanism linked to the female member, the base clamping mechanism being suitable for clamping the universal hose clamp to a support structure such as a that comprises an existing railing or pole.

5. (Currently Amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 2, wherein the securing means comprises a ~~second female member provided upon a portable independent frame, the female member being adapted to receive an end of the swivel pin therein~~

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to permit the securing means to be rotatable upon the, ~~suitable for receiving the second pin, and~~
a portable independent frame.

6. (Previously Presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the portable independent frame is a tripod.

7. (Currently Amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 2, wherein the hose mount comprises a quick release having coupling ~~comprises a third-female member adapted~~ suitable for receiving the first-at least a portion of the mounting pin therein, ~~wherein the hose mount is removable thus allowing the hose coupling to be removed from the universal hose locating mechanism when the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 4, wherein when the second locking mechanism is in the locked position the ~~second pin lockably engages with the first-female member~~ lockably engages with the swivel pin.

9. (Currently Amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 5, wherein when the second locking mechanism is in the locked position the ~~second pin lockably engages with the second-female member~~ lockably engages with the swivel pin.

10. (Currently Amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 7, wherein when the first locking mechanism is in the locked position the ~~first pin lockably engages with the third-female member~~ lockably engages with the mounting pin.

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11. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the hose coupling further comprises a gripping aid, a mounting band coupled to the gripping aid and a hose securing means for securing a hose to the hose coupling, the hose securing means being coupled to the mounting band.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the gripping aid is made of a flexible material comprising rubber.

13. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the gripping aid is cylindrical in shape.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the mounting band is cylindrical in shape.

15. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the hose securing means is a screw thread mechanism.

16-22. **(Cancelled)**

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23. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp comprising:

a universal hose locating mechanism;

a hose mount linked to the universal hose locating mechanism through a mounting pin to provide free rotational movement of the hose mount about the longitudinal axis of the mounting pin;

a first locking mechanism linked to the universal hose locating mechanism and the hose mount, the first locking mechanism being movable between an unlocked position and a locked position to control rotational movement of the hose mount, the first locking mechanism comprising a handle assembly configured to rotate relative to the mounting pin to move the first locking mechanism between the unlocked and locked positions; ~~which moves between a locked and an unlocked position, the first locking mechanism comprising a handle assembly and a pin having a first axis, wherein the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position when the handle assembly is parallel to the first axis, and the locked position when the first handle assembly is rotated to lie perpendicular to the first axis;~~

a securing means for securing the universal hose locating mechanism to a support structure; and

a hose coupling coupled to the hose mount, the hose coupling being adapted to connect a hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, such that with the first locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about the longitudinal axis of the mount pin; and adapted to connect a hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the hose coupling is configured to have

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~~unlimited rotational movement about the first axis when the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position~~

a second locking mechanism linked to the universal hose locating mechanism and the hose mount, the second locking mechanism being movable between an unlocked position and a locked position, the second locking mechanism comprising a second handle assembly and a swivel pin linked thereto, wherein the swivel pin has a longitudinal axis that is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the mounting pin, wherein the second handle assembly is rotatable relative to the swivel pin to move the second locking mechanism between the unlocked and locked positions, such that with the second locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about the longitudinal axis of the swivel pin.

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24. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp comprising:

~~a universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the universal hose locating mechanism includes a first locking mechanism and a second locking mechanism each of which moves between a locked and an unlocked position;~~

~~wherein the first locking mechanism comprises a first handle assembly, a first connection means, and a first pin having a first axis, and the second locking mechanism comprises a second handle assembly, a second connection means, and a second pin having a second axis perpendicular to the first axis;~~

~~wherein the first and second locking mechanisms are in the unlocked position when their respective handle assemblies are parallel to the first and second axes respectively, and the locked positions when their respective handle assemblies are rotated to lie substantially perpendicular to the first and second axes respectively;~~

~~a securing means for securing said locating mechanism to a support structure; and~~

~~a hose coupling adapted to connect a hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the hose coupling is configured to have unlimited rotational movement about the first axis when the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position, and unlimited rotational movement about the second axis when the second locking mechanism is in the unlocked position.~~

a universal hose locating mechanism,

a first locking mechanism linked to the universal hose locating mechanism, the first locking mechanism being movable between a locked and an unlocked position, the first locking mechanism comprising a handle assembly and a pin having a first axis,

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wherein the handle assembly rotates relative to the pin in a plane of the pin to move the first locking mechanism between the locked and unlocked positions;

a securing means for securing the universal hose locating mechanism to a support structure;

a hose coupling adapted to connect a hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the hose coupling is linked to the universal hose locating mechanism such that the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about the first axis when the hose is coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position;

a second locking mechanism linked to the hose coupling, the second locking mechanism being movable between a locked and an unlocked position such that with the hose coupled to the hose coupling and the second locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis, wherein the second locking mechanism comprises a second handle assembly and a connection means for connecting the second locking mechanism to a second pin,

wherein the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position when the first handle assembly is substantially parallel to the first pin, and the locked position when the first handle assembly is rotated to lie substantially perpendicular to the first pin, and wherein the second locking mechanism is in the unlocked positions when the second handle assembly is substantially parallel to the second pin, and the locked position when the second handle assembly is rotated to lie substantially perpendicular to the second pin,

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wherein the securing means comprises a female member suitable for receiving the second pin therein and a portable independent frame configured to be linked to the female member.